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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour and the sad duty to report that terrorism, aided, abetted, organized and instigated from Iraq, has taken yet another toll on the Islamic Republic of Iran; this time, Major General Ali Sayyad Shirazi, the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At 0645 hours on 10 April 1999, Major General Sayyad Shirazi was gunned down in front of his residence in Tehran as he was taking his son to school. A few hours later, the terrorist group known as Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) claimed responsibility for that terrorist act. Major General Sayyad Shirazi was a national hero who had performed with bravery in defence of Iranian territory and with honour in Iraq's war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which the Iraq-based MKO served as mercenaries for the army of aggression and occupation.

You are no doubt aware that MKO, which is based in Iraq and operates in various countries under its own name or under fictitious organizations, such as the so-called "National Council of Resistance", or under the protective umbrella of a number of non-governmental organizations with consultative status in the Economic and Social Council, has claimed responsibility for many acts of terrorism against the Iranian people inside and outside the Islamic Republic of Iran, including attacks against Iranian officials, some even within the premises of the United Nations, as well as diplomatic and consular premises and the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations.

I wish to refer specifically to General Assembly resolution 51/210, which calls upon all States "to take steps to prevent and counteract, through appropriate domestic measures, the financing of terrorists and terrorist organizations, whether such financing is direct or indirect through organizations which also have or claim to have charitable, social or cultural goals" and also to counter abuse of these organizations, groups or associations by terrorists using them as a shield for their activities. The problem of terrorism is a global challenge

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requiring a global approach where collective decisions taken by all States within international organizations are taken seriously and enforced diligently and even-handedly.

It must be underlined repeatedly that all Governments and international organizations need to take the fight against terrorism seriously and implement the basic international guidelines against this global menace with regard to all perpetrators of terrorist crimes, without any distinction. Failure by Governments or international organizations to live up to their responsibility to prevent terrorists, their organizations and their front establishments from operating or residing in their territory or in any fashion using their territory constitutes a major impediment to the global struggle against this menace, which entails international responsibility.

I wish to reaffirm that the Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomsoever committed. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared, as in the past, to cooperate with the United Nations and any other serious international effort aimed at combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 161 of the preliminary list for the fifty-fourth session.

(Signed) Mehdi **Danesh-Yazdi**
Ambassador
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